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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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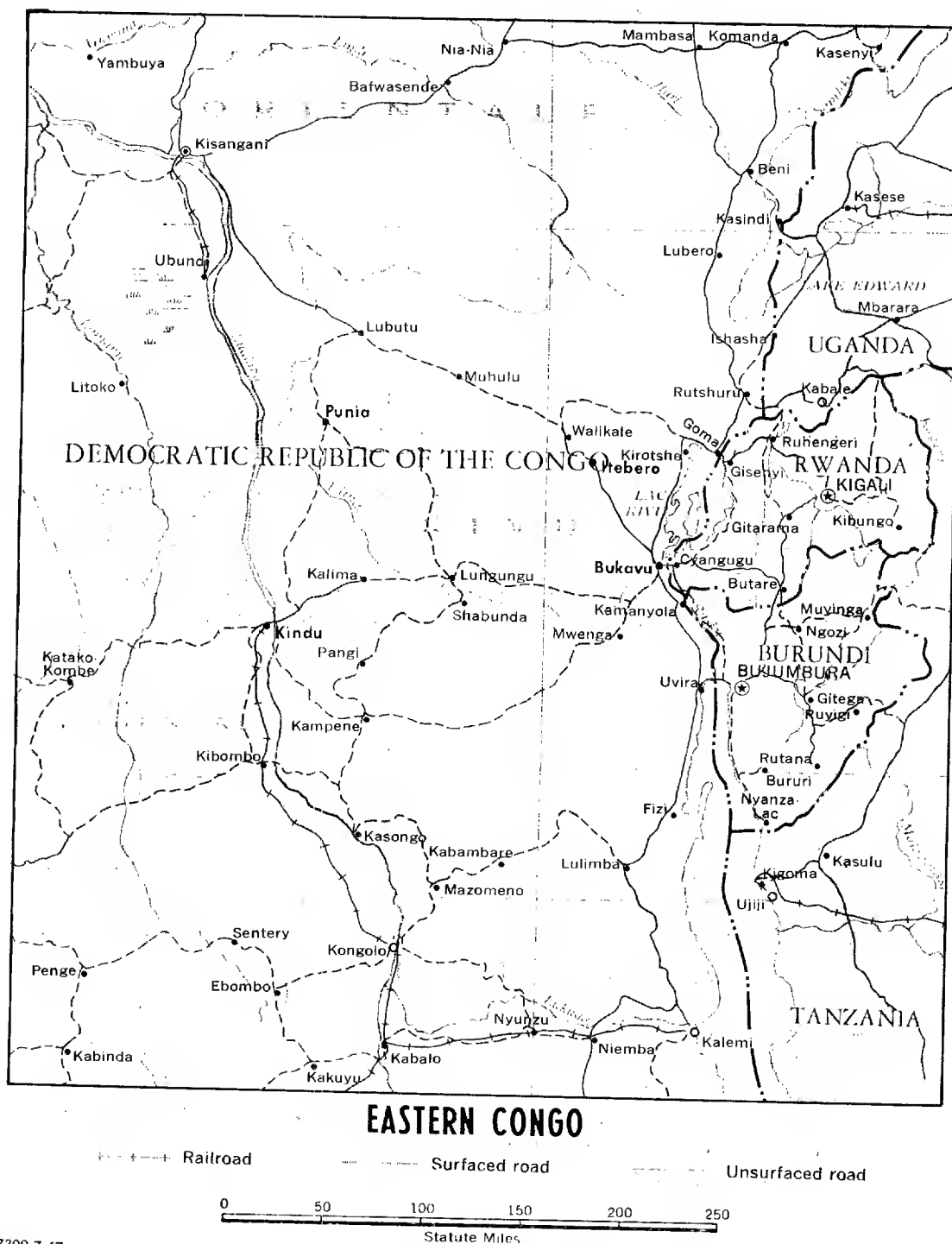
France-Canada: De Gaulle overreached himself in using Quebec to hammer away at his theme that the US threatens the independence of all the Western powers.

His initial exhortation to French Canadians to become masters of their own province was not particularly unsettling to most Canadians because the provincial regime that pressed Quebec's "quiet revolution" in the early 1960s won power on the same slogan. His appeal for resistance to American economic control has wide support among English-speaking Canadians.

On the other hand, De Gaulle's call for a "free Quebec," even though it presumably was made in the context of his earlier bid to all Canadians to resist their "colossal neighbor," showed a misunderstanding of the internal situation in Canada. In the Canadian context, the expression is identified with the small "separatist" element in Quebec. The impact De Gaulle's use of it had on his Canadian hosts obliged a member of his entourage to deny that the general was thrusting himself into Canada's internal politics.

This disavowal and Prime Minister Pearson's low-key rebuke will probably permit the incident to be glossed over. Although it will not mollify the most severe English-Canadian critics of the French President, Pearson's cautious statement will permit moderate French Canadians to reiterate their support for the Canadian confederation and to dissociate themselves from the separatist implications of De Gaulle's remarks.


Quebec leaders undertook to exploit De Gaulle's visit by pressing Ottawa to give them more autonomy. They are not, however, prepared to push for outright independence, at least in the short run. The immediate result of De Gaulle's visit, therefore, may be to bring French and English Canada closer together.



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Congo (Kinshasa): There is no confirmation that the mercenaries have left Punia and are heading toward Bukavu, as reported by Congolese army units. These units claimed to have fled from attacking mercenaries at Itebero. A small group of mercenaries may have made a raid either to equip themselves or to impair army capabilities. A similar raid was made near Kindu last week. Most of the mercenaries probably have settled down near Punia for a long stay. 
(Map)

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